

Lancashire Health and Wellbeing Board

Meeting to be held on 16 July 2015

Public Health in year budget reductions

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Executive Summary

The in year reductions of Lancashire County Council's public health budget will have implications for services across the health system. There is a need to ensure that the impact of these cuts is minimised and the development of a place based public health system across Lancashire is a priority.

Recommendation/s

The Health and Wellbeing Board is recommended to:

- Agree the development of discussion and activity between Lancashire County Council, NHS England and Public Health England to enable a more joined up public health system.
- To invite Blackburn with Darwen and Blackpool to engage in this work

Background

At the meeting of the Health and Wellbeing Board on the 5 June 2015 an item was raised under urgent business that alerted the Board to a government announcement of in year cuts to the public health budget. The Department of Health had announced an overall reduction of £200 million to this budget which it is estimated will equate to £4 million for Lancashire County Council.

It is clear that this level of in year reduction will have a significant effect on the services that Lancashire County Council is able to commission and that this then will necessarily impact on other services provided through the health system. This will ensure that rather than preventing ill health the focus will move back to managing ill health.

Within the Health and Wellbeing Board discussion, the Chair agreed to write to Jeremy Hunt to outline the concerns raised. This letter (attached as appendix A) also expressed a desire to begin a dialogue in order to minimise the impact of cuts on frontline services and build a more joined up public health system. With this in mind the letter was also copied to Duncan Selbie (chief executive of Public Health England) and Simon Stevens (chief executive of NHS England). To date there has been a limited response with only NHS England replying that this is not a matter for them.

List of background papers - none